

MAYOR ASKS FOR COMPLETE REPORT

Requests Vice Commission to
File All Its Evidence With-
out Delay.

PROBE CANNOT BE AVOIDED

Believed Now That Council Is
Proper Body to Investigate
Police Department.

The movement for an investigation of the Police Department, with the view of fixing the responsibility for the alleged official complicity in the maintenance of immoral resorts outside the old segregated district, took on a decidedly quicker tempo yesterday with the forwarding by the Mayor of a letter to the Vice Commission, in which that body is asked to file without delay such supplementary reports upon the vice situation as it holds in store.

While the Mayor's letter merely asks for the filing of all the evidence in the commission's possession and has nothing to say directly upon a proposed investigation, there is a clear intimation that further action will be taken. Without the commission's complete and final report, says the Mayor, he cannot determine wisely upon his whole course of action without taking the chance that such action would suffer from its prematurity.

The letter was forwarded to Chairman Ashton Starke, of the Vice Commission, yesterday, by special messenger. While it could not be learned last night how soon a meeting of the commission will be called to take action on the communication, it is regarded as probable that the Mayor's request will be complied with without delay.

MAYOR'S LETTER TO

CHAIRMAN STARKE

Mr. Ashton Starke, Chairman, 1422 East Main Street, City:

"February 15, 1915.

"Hon. Ashton Starke, Chairman, 1422 East Main Street, City:

"My Dear Mr. Starke: A report, marked Report No. 1, of the Vice Commission was filed with me on the afternoon of February 5, which report stated that further and subsequent report would be made.

"I considered that a decent respect for the commission itself, as well as the importance of its function and its necessary bearing on my own duties in the premises, demanded that a reasonable time be given for its further deliberation and action, and I still hold to this view.

"I cannot wisely determine my whole course of action prior to the final report of the commission without taking the chance that my action would suffer from its prematurity. I, therefore, respectfully request the commission to file its complete and final report, together with all the evidence before it, at its earliest convenience, in order that my own action in the premises may be maturely and advisedly taken.

"Respectfully,
GEORGE AINSIE, Mayor."

COMMISSION PROMISED

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

The Vice Commission filed report No. 1 with the Mayor on February 5. At that time it stated, as part of the report, that the supplementary reports would be filed "at the earliest practicable time." The phrase was capable of liberal interpretation, and the Mayor proceeded to allow the commission a reasonable time for its further deliberations.

With the closing of the segregated district on February 9, four days after the filing of the Vice Commission's first report, as the result of the Mayor's order directing a prompt and complete enforcement of the laws against immoral resorts in the city, whether within or without the recognized segregated district, there arose a sharp demand for a complete statement from the Vice Commission.

DEMAND FOR PROBE

CANNOT BE STILLED

The general desire for fuller information, particularly as to the culpability of the Police Board or some of its members, quickly attained the dignity of a city-wide movement to this end, in official circles as well as in the streets. It was freely admitted that a police investigation cannot now be averted, and that the public will not be satisfied until a competent tribunal shall have cleared the whole situation of the doubt and suspicion with which it is now beset.

Advocates of a prompt investigation advise the Mayor to undertake one immediately. An executive officer of the city, he is endowed by the charter with wide powers of investigation, suspension and removal, and it was believed by a large number of citizens that he was the logical one to order and prosecute an investigation.

The Mayor's letter to the Vice Commission is a sufficient answer to this demand. He made it clear yesterday that it would be the height of folly for him to take any further steps until he had been supplied with the fullest possible data.

WISE ACTION PREFERABLE

TO QUICK, SAYS MAYOR

"Which is most desirable, quick action or wise action?" said Mayor Ainsie yesterday, discussing the situation. "What I do will have lasting effect, not only on individuals, but the community I serve, and will have to stand the test of critical examination on its merits. Time, then, will be of no consideration. The character of the action, and not the time at which it is taken, will be in judgment. There are questions both of law and fact that are not so clear to the lawyer as they are to the layman.

"In justice to my obligations, I cannot allow myself to be lashed into premature action. I must be reasonably certain of my ground. In the effect on results, folly may be as bad as knavery.

"I have requested the Vice Commission to file all its evidence with-

EITHER JOKE OR NUISANCE

Chicago Doctor Advises Against American Girls Acting as War Nurses.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

NEW YORK, February 15.—American girls as war nurses are a joke, according to Dr. Lewis Crow, of the Cook County Hospital, Chicago, who landed here today on the Rochambeau, after four months' service with the French Red Cross. He earnestly advised the numerous society girls of America who are planning to volunteer their services abroad to stay home.

"They are not wanted," he said. "Their services are valueless, and they are regarded either as a joke or a nuisance."

Dr. Crow said that during the first few months of the war typhoid killed more French soldiers than German bullets. He also declared he had been fired on several times by the Germans while tending both German and French wounded, after battles.

TROLLEY TERMINAL RAIDED

Masked Men Hold Up Cashiers and Get Away With \$2,000.

WASHINGTON, February 15.—Two masked men raided one of the principal trolley terminals not far from the Capitol today, held cashiers at bay, and got away with \$2,000. In their haste they overlooked \$5,000 more.

While one of the robbers covered the cashiers with revolvers the other went through the cash drawers and scooped out into a large sack the coins turned in by conductors, and rolls of bills ready for the bank. Part of the Sunday accumulation of revenue of some of the principal lines of the capital were in the haul.

COLLARS FOR BERNSTORFF

Secretary of Embassy Solves Mystery of Suspicious-Looking Package.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, February 15.—A suspicious-looking package, addressed to Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, caused a quandary among the customs men when Miss Ray Beveridge, an American singer, to whom it had been entrusted by the Countess von Bernstorff, stepped off the Italian steamship, Duca d'Aosta. No one was at the pier to represent the ambassador. Miss Beveridge said she didn't know anything about its contents, and the custom men didn't know what to do with it. Finally a representative of the ambassador arrived and straightened out the thing out. The package contained several dozen linen collars.

WHISKEY PLANTS CURTAIL

Increase in Price of Rye Is Held Responsible.

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., February 15.—Increase in the price of rye is held responsible for curtailment of whiskey manufacture at many Pennsylvania distilleries. Operations at two of the plants, which are among the largest and best known in the United States, probably will be suspended temporarily next month, two months ahead of scheduled time. Another large plant is now running at reduced capacity, and a fourth has already been closed.

SAILING VESSELS USE CANAL

Had Been Assumed That No Revenue Would Be Derived From This Source.

WASHINGTON, February 15.—Panama Canal authorities have been agreeably surprised at the disposition of maritime interests to use the canal for sailing vessels. It had been assumed it would derive no revenue from that source.

Four sailing vessels already have passed through, and have demonstrated it can be used economically by that class of ships, authorities say.

It has been reckoned that, using the canal a sailing vessel may make the trip from New York to San Francisco in sixty days, while it would require 140 days by way of Cape Horn.

DIPHTHERIA GERMS REVIVE

Had Lurked for Fifty Years in Walls of House—Cause Three Deaths.

YORK, Pa., February 15.—Medical men believe that diphtheria germs which had lurked for half a century in the walls of the house occupied by Raymond Miller, recently caused the death of three of Miller's children.

Fifty years ago several members of a family that lived in the house died of diphtheria. Shortly before the present outbreak Miller had scraped the walls preparatory to papering. Warm, damp weather, physicians say, revived the germs.

BRITISH SHIP HITS MINE

Beached Near Deal—First Officer and Several of Crew Drowned.

LONDON, February 15.—The British steamer Wavelet, 1,918 tons, Captain Cole, from Pensacola, Fla., January 15, via Newport News, January 22, for Leth, Scotland, encountered a mine in the British Channel and was badly damaged. The skipper, by prompt action, succeeded in beaching his steamer near Deal.

A small boat from the Wavelet carrying the first officer and a number of the crew left the ship when it appeared she would founder. The boat capsized in the heavy seas and all the men in it were drowned.

HAUSE VINDICATED

Charges of Fraudulent Use of Mail Against Him Dismissed.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., February 15.—United States Commissioner Elmore announced today he had dismissed charges of fraudulent use of the mails against J. M. Hause, an Atlanta cotton broker. Hause has filed suit for damages against Frank Hadden, of Memphis, one of those who made the complaint against him.

SHIP-BILL INQUIRY ORDERED BY SENATE

Special Investigation of Influences for and Against Measure to Be Made.

DECISION IS UNANIMOUS

Efforts of Administration Senators to Force Cloture Rule Continue During Day.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 15.—Charges and countercharges from Democratic and Republican sources, concerning influences for and against the government ship-purchase bill, which have smoldered about the Capitol for weeks, were made the subject of a special investigation today by the Senate.

The decision to inquire into alleged lobbying by agents of the "shipping trust" against the bill, and into intimations of negotiations for options on belligerent munitions, with the determination of the Senate to pass the bill, was the subject of the most earnest champions of the shipping measure that the bill could be passed in the Senate by March 4.

Although Democrats of the House in caucus to-night sought to pave the way for passage of the amended shipping measure in the lower branch of Congress within a day or two, senate Republicans held to their determination that the filibuster against it should continue. Even some administration Senators were inclined to the view that appropriation measures should be taken up and rushed through before March 4. Should this result, it was intimated, there might be no further effort to force a vote on the ship bill in the upper branch, nor would an extra session be called to consider it, at least for several months.

NO ANNOUNCEMENTS

ON EXTRA SESSION

While no definite announcements on the subject of an extra session have been made, the view was submitted by persons close to the President that the ship bill issue would be taken before the country. It would be shown that the House had passed the bill after a desperate effort had been made to break down Republican opposition in the Senate, and that responsibility for failure of the measure was due to a Republican filibuster.

The investigation ordered today, administration leaders suggested, might bring out facts which would throw light upon opposition to the bill.

Inquiry will be conducted by Senators Walsh, Simmons, Reed, Burton and Weeks. This committee will meet to-morrow to make a plan of procedure. Should there be no extra session of Congress, the committee would be empowered to sit during a recess, as it is conceded that the proposed inquiry could not be concluded by March 4.

Republican opponents of the ship bill proposed, through a resolution offered by Senator Burton, that portion of the inquiry which concerns intimations that persons or corporations in the United States sought options on belligerent ships with a view to selling them to the government, and that these persons or corporations were in some way allied with officials of the government, be included in that adopted, requesting the Secretary of the Treasury for information on the subject.

Aroused enlivening debate. Senators Williams and Reed charged they were purposely intended to reflect upon Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo and Paul M. Warburg, of the Federal Reserve Board.

AGAINST ALLEGED LOBBY

BY "SHIPPING TRUST"

Another portion of the inquiry resulted from an amendment added to the bill, that the committee on Audit and Control, directed against an alleged lobby, by the "shipping trust" and by corporations that might be forced to compete with government shipping lines. It also directed inquiry as to what United States Senators are stockholders or bondholders of shipping corporations.

Efforts of administration Senators to force a cloture rule continued today, the Democratic majority succeeding in fighting its way through a parliamentary ambush and forcing the Republicans to renew their filibuster in order to prevent a rule to limit the debate.

Pending before the Senate is Senator Reed's motion to order a vote on the ship-purchase bill not later than February 19, with a general cloture substitute by Senator Norris to limit debate to three hours, and an amendment by Senator Cummins, an amendment to the rule inoperative against a bill on which Senators of any party had attempted to bind Senators in caucus.

The House Democratic caucus went into session to-night, with Representative Webb, of North Carolina, in charge of the fight for the special rule to consider the ship-purchase bill, and Representative Page, of North Carolina, leading the opposition.

Throughout the day conferences had been held continuously by both sides, and the administration leaders made vigorous but unavailing efforts to win over Representative Kitchen, of North Carolina, leader of the next House.

KITCHEN REMAINS

FIRM AGAINST BILL

Late in the day Secretary Daniels, of the navy, made a trip to the Capitol. He was closeted with Representative Kitchen for nearly an hour, but when he left the latter reiterated his determination to vote against the bill, and to keep aloof from active participation in the fight.

Administration leaders on the House side were declaring that if the ship-purchase bill were passed by the House, and sent to the Senate, an extra session of Congress could be avoided. There was considerable discussion of a report that it was planned to abandon the bill.

(Continued on Third Page.)

ASSUME DEFENSIVE ON OWN TERRITORY

Russians Driven Back by Sustained Austro-German Attack in East.

NO GREAT CHANGE IN WEST

British Public Centres Interest in Outcome of German So-Called Blockade of Waters.

Capture of 40,000 Russians Reported

UNOFFICIALLY, it is announced from Berlin that Field Marshal von Hindenburg's third battle in East Prussia is likely to prove more disastrous to the Russians than the others. Forty thousand Russians are reported to have been captured, and Prussia is now said to have been cleared of the invaders.

Official statements are as barren of details regarding progress of the campaign as at any time during the past week.

The Austro-Hungarian ambassador at Washington announced, on the authority of private dispatches from the Austrian Foreign Office, the complete evacuation of Bukovina by the Russian forces. Previous advices had reported the occupation of Czernowitz, capital of Bukovina, by the Teutonic allies.

LONDON, February 15 (11:20 P. M.).—The sustained Austro-German attack in the east, with Petrograd's admission that the Russians plan to assume the defensive on their own territory, is an important feature to-day of the military situation.

The Germans claim progress in Bukovina, and unofficial advices from Rudaupst even say that the Austrians have swept as far east as Czernowitz, although the latest official communication from Vienna does not so state. However, the Austrians claim to have occupied Nadworna, in Southeastern Galicia.

There is no noteworthy change in the west. The Germans took about 1,000 yards of trenches south of Ypres, but the allies partially balanced this by capturing about 500 yards between Bethune and La Bassée.

The British public is centering its interest just now in the outcome of the German so-called blockade of British waters, due to begin on Thursday, with special reference to its effect on neutral shipping.

SPEECHES IN COMMONS

OVERSHADOW WAR NEWS

The speeches in the House of Commons of David Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Winston Spencer Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, the former explaining concerted financial plans of the allies, and the latter reviewing the naval situation and promising the utmost endeavors to cut off all German food supplies, temporarily have overshadowed war news.

The Royal Dutch Steamship Company today suspended service to Havre, on account of the German threat, and according to Berlin dispatches, all Dutch shipping companies have decided to suspend service to England after February 18.

The British steamer Wavelet, from Pensacola, struck a mine in the English Channel. The loss of life numbered twelve, and the steamer was beached.

FORECAST OF GERMAN PROPOSALS TO ITALY

ROME, Sunday, February 14.—The Idea Nazionale, a Nationalist party organ, to-day published this forecast of German proposals to Italy:

"Before the end of February Prince von Buelow, the German ambassador to Italy, will present to the Italian government a concrete proposal for Italian participation in the war on the side of Germany. This consists of the cession by Austria of the Province of Trieste, and the rectification of the eastern Italian frontier by the addition of a strip of land going as far as the Isonzo River. In addition Germany will pledge herself to conclude a new treaty with Italy which will afford protection to Italy's Mediterranean interests.

"In exchange Italy is to take part at once in the war. She will occupy Tunis, and help Turkey drive the English from Egypt, which will return under the dominion of the Sultan of Turkey. In addition the Italian fleet will attack the Anglo-French naval forces in the Mediterranean."

The Idea Nazionale says Prince von Buelow, referring to Trieste, made this statement:

"It is impossible to give Trieste to Italy, because this seaport is the lung, not only of Austria, but of Germany."

At the conclusion of a conversation with Italian statesmen, Prince von Buelow, according to this newspaper, made use of this phrase:

"Either Italy will be friendly toward us, or we will treat her worse than we are treating England."

GERMAN DECLARATION

IS ABSORBING TOPIC

LONDON, February 15.—Germany's declaration of a war zone about the British Isles still is an absorbing topic for the English newspapers and public, and dispatches from the Continent indicate that Germany is equally interested.

The report that American Ambassador Gerard has been requested to meet Emperor William at once on the eastern battle front is taken here to mean that Berlin probably will make a prompt reply to the American note. German comment on the situation insists that Washington should prevent use of the American flag by Great Britain and a strict observation of the Declaration

(Continued on Second Page.)

ACTION OF GERMANY DEPENDS ON ENGLAND



AMBASSADOR VON BERNSTORFF.

STRONG ARGUMENTS FOR BUYING WHOLE BLOCK

Government Officials Inspect Property Proposed for Enlarged Post-Office.

APPROPRIATION IS SUFFICIENT

Vice-President Denon, of Corporation Owning Eleventh Street Corner, Tells Secretary Newton Whole Tract Can Be Bought for \$450,000.

After hearing the merits of the property adjoining the present Federal Building discussed by leading business men, Byron R. Newton, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and John C. Keene, chief of the salary and allowance division of the Post-Office Department, returned to Washington last night. They will decide from their personal observation whether it is advisable for the government to acquire the site for the purpose of erecting an annex to afford adequate and suitable postal facilities for the Richmond of the future.

Reasons why, in their opinion, the purchase of the property would solve the problem, were given yesterday in a five-hour hearing conducted by the two government officials. The talks, which were confined strictly to the merits of the site in question, were purely informal, and while all of the speakers were not in favor of acquisition of the property, the weight of argument was in favor of the purchase of the ground immediately adjoining the post-office building.

REPRESENTATIVE BUSINESS MEN ATTEND HEARINGS

Postmaster Hay T. Thornton presided over the meeting, which was held in the courtroom of the United States District Court, beginning at 10 o'clock. When the hearing started, the room was crowded with many of the most prominent business and financial men of the city, together with representatives of the civic organizations. Mr. Newton announced that he would hear all discussions which would throw light on the desirability of the property adjoining the present building, together with opinions regarding the future expansion of the city.

William T. Reed, president of the Chamber of Commerce, was the first speaker. He told the government officials that his organization, after mature consideration, had endorsed the Eleventh and Main Street site as the most desirable one for the purpose. He asked that members of the chamber be given an opportunity to speak, and John C. Easley, well known in local realty circles, was the first to take the floor.

ANY CHANGE WOULD DISTURB BUSINESS CONDITIONS

"The most powerful argument in favor of increasing the capacity of the present building," said Mr. Easley, "is the fact that the present site is right in the centre of the business and banking district, and therefore, if it is moved, there would be a disturbance of present business relations."

He recalled that several years ago when the building was enlarged, the addition was constructed in such a manner that a similar addition could be made on the east side, and, in fact, would carry out the architectural scheme. Mr. Easley, in the midst of a comparison of floor space in this and other cities, was interrupted by Mr. Newman, who inquired if the speaker was familiar with conditions in those cities. After admitting that he was not, Mr. Newton told Mr. Easley that the cities mentioned were greatly congested.

Mr. Easley wound up his argument with the statement that the railroad (Continued on Third Page.)

ALLIES HAVE ONLY THIRD OF STRENGTH IN FIELD

To Maintain This and Bring Remaining Force Into Action Will Cost \$10,000,000,000 This Year.

STATEMENT BY LLOYD GEORGE

Winston Churchill Declares Great Britain Will Clamp on Every Ounce of Sea Pressure to Choke Off Germany's Food Supply.

LONDON, February 15 (10:50 P. M.).—The countries fighting against Germany, Austria and Turkey thus far have thrown only a third of their strength into the field. To maintain this force and to bring the remaining two-thirds into action will cost \$10,000,000,000 during the current year.

This announcement was made in the House of Commons to-day by David Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who, with Winston Spencer Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, gave the British public perhaps a closer view of the machinery behind the great struggle than had been afforded since the outbreak of the war.

Mr. Churchill declared, amid cheering, that Great Britain finally had decided to clamp on every ounce of sea pressure to choke off Germany's food supply. In retaliation for the German submarine policy, which Lloyd George drew additional cheering when he spoke of loans to countries expected to throw in their lot with the allies, these countries the chancellor did not name.

The announcement of the government's decision with relation to Germany's food supplies came almost coincidentally with the receipt of two dispatches from the United States, one saying that Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, had informed the Washington government that Germany was willing to abandon her submarine policy provided Great Britain ceased interfering with cargoes of foodstuffs, and the other saying that he had again advised neutral shipping to avoid those waters which Germany had declared would become a dangerous military area three days hence.

LLOYD GEORGE DETAILS FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Lloyd George detailed financial arrangements the allies decided on at the Paris conference, and put into round figures what heretofore had been guessed, the remarkable increase in the productivity and efficiency of the Russian people by prohibition of the sale of vodka. This productivity and efficiency he placed as high as 50 per cent.

Great Britain, the chancellor said, had resources which would last for five years, and France perhaps sufficient for three years. In view of that, he styled "piracy and murder." Mr. Churchill said it was incumbent on Great Britain for the first time to apply the "full force" of her naval power. A formal declaration to this effect, he added, "would be made forthwith."

WAR WILL COST ALLIES \$10,000,000,000 THIS YEAR

Explatory of the arrangements made at the recent conference between the Finance Ministers of France and Russia, and himself, in Paris, David (Continued on Second Page.)

BERLIN WILLING TO COMPROMISE IN WAR ZONE DECREE

Wants Great Britain to Remove Restrictions on Food for Noncombatants.

NOTE IS DELIVERED BY VON BERNSTORFF

Otherwise, Kaiser's Government Proposes to Put Original Proclamation Into Effect.

ALSO STREW MINES IN WATERS

New Representations Concerning the Wilhelmina Made to British Foreign Office.

Germany Reiterates Its Determination

As the time approaches for putting into effect the German declaration of a war zone in the water around the British Isles, interest in this particular phase of the campaign is becoming more intense.

Germany reiterates its determination to carry out its declaration in spirit and in fact. The Netherlands has sent a note of protest to the German government, couched in language similar to that of the United States, in which it declares it will hold Germany responsible should any Dutch ship be attacked and sunk.

At the same time, the Netherlands government, in a note to Great Britain, contends that the use of a neutral flag on a large scale and by the direct action of the belligerent government would be an abuse of such flag. It calls attention to the grave danger which would be imposed on all the shipping of its country by general instructions to British merchantmen to make use of the Dutch flag.

The German ambassador at Washington has delivered a note to the United States, which has been transmitted to Great Britain, in which Germany offers to recede from her plan of destroying enemy merchant ships if restrictions placed by the allies on shipments of conditional contraband and foodstuffs destined for the civilian population of Germany are removed.

WASHINGTON, February 15.—With only three days remaining before the German admiralty proposes to carry into effect its proclamation ordering a submarine campaign on enemy merchant ships, developments in the diplomatic situation moved rapidly to-day through the medium of the United States government custodians of the diplomatic interests of the various belligerents.

Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, delivered a note to the United States, which was promptly transmitted to Great Britain, in which Germany offered to recede from her plan of destroying enemy merchant ships if restrictions the allies had placed on shipments of conditional contraband and foodstuffs destined to the German civilian population were removed.

Otherwise, the note announced, Germany proposes to put into effect the original proclamation, adding also the strewing of mines in waters surrounding Great Britain and Ireland.

The ambassador's communication was sent from Berlin before the recent American note was delivered there, and is supplemental to the German Foreign Office memorandum on the subject of the new war zone.

BRITISH SEND REPLY TO NOTE OF DECEMBER 26

At the time that the German ambassador conferred with Secretary Bryan and Counselor Lansing, the complete text of the British reply to the American note of protest on neutral shipping, dated December 26, was received. It was laid before President Wilson.

Besides giving statistics on neutral commerce, and entering a general denial that there had been an unwarranted interference with legitimate shipments, the new note contains a statement from Great Britain that the recent government decree taking over the flour and grain supply in Germany required added precautions on the part of the allies that conditional contraband might not be permitted to reach the armed forces of the enemy.

The full text will not be given out until an agreement for publication is reached with the British Foreign Office.

Another department development, bearing directly on the threatened submarine warfare, was the dispatching of a telegram by the State Department to-day to Ambassador Page, instructing him to submit to the British Foreign Office evidence by the owners of the American steamer Wilhelmina to prove that her cargo consists of foodstuffs destined to noncombatants, and is not subject to seizure. The suggestion is made that unless Great Britain has sufficient grounds not yet advanced